



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

MAY 3 2002

FORCE MANAGEMENT
POLICY

The Honorable Bob Stump
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter provides information on the report to the Congress containing:

the second annual report of the Department of Defense (DoD) Task Force on Domestic Violence (Task Force), as required by Section 591 of P.L. 106-65, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000;

the DoD evaluation of the Task Force's second report, required by Section 591(e) of the Act; and

information on year 2001 incidents of domestic violence involving members of the armed forces, required by Section 594 of the Act.

This letter summarizes the scope of the report, the due date, the status of DoD actions to complete the report, and the projected completion date for the report.

- **Report Scope:** The Task Force's second report is a continuation of its review of DoD policy and practice with respect to preventing domestic violence in the military and responding to incidents that have occurred. This includes a review of the role of commanders, senior noncommissioned officers in military units, law enforcement and criminal investigative organizations, staff judge advocates and legal assistance offices, health care providers, chaplains, public affairs offices, Family Advocacy Program personnel, and victim advocates. During its second year the Task Force visited overseas commands and identified issues arising from domestic violence incidents that occurred overseas, including military assignment practices and the shipment of household goods when a spouse returns early due to domestic violence.
- **Due Date:** May 25, 2002
- **Status:** The second report of the Task Force is completed. It contains 86 recommendations, of which 24 are follow on recommendations to the 68 recommendations in its first report and 62 are new recommendations. The breadth

of these recommendations as well as the draft DoD evaluation of the report has required review by numerous offices within the three Military Departments and by 18 different offices within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). This review is almost completed. The Services submitted data on incidents of domestic violence during 2001 to OSD. Because the Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS) is still under development, some difficulties were encountered in programming and retrieving the data that had been input into DIBRS. These difficulties resulted in significant delays in the submission of the data to OSD. OSD personnel are currently working with the Services to identify and resolve these issues.

- Projected Completion Date: July 15, 2002

The Department is committed to reporting to Congress on these important issues in a timely and responsive manner. We are actively working to ensure that the information provided on this subject is based on a thorough, coordinated review. We will apprise you of any unanticipated changes in the projected schedule provided.

Thank you for your continued support of service members and their families. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "for Jane Burke".

John M. Molino
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)

cc:
The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member